

DOCKET NO. D-2010-020 CP-1

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Southeastern Pennsylvania
Ground Water Protected Area**

**Horsham Air Guard Station
Groundwater Withdrawal
Horsham Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted on May 20, 2010 by Department of the Navy for the Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) for an allocation of groundwater and review of a groundwater withdrawal project (Application) in the Ground Water Protected Area of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Since the application was submitted, the Navy no longer maintains an operational presence and has transferred key real estate to the PA Air National Guard that includes Wells Nos. 1 and 2. Consequently, the installation was renamed to Horsham Air Guard Station. Further, Horsham Air Guard Station is the public water supplier for the installation.

The Application was reviewed for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan and approval under Section 3.8 and for a withdrawal permit under Section 10.3 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*. The Montgomery County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action on this docket. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on December 5, 2012.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to approve a groundwater withdrawal of up to 3.2 million gallons per month (mgm) from existing Wells Nos. 1 and 2 to the Horsham Air Guard Station water supply system.
- 2. Location.** The Horsham Air Guard Station wells are located in the Park Creek Watershed, in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The wells are located in the Stockton Formation.

Specific location information has been withheld for security reasons.

3. **Area Served.** The Horsham Air Guard Station wells are used to supply water to the docket holder's Air National Guard Station, including all buildings and facilities located at the station. The Guard Station is located at the intersection of Route 611 and County Line Road in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

For the purpose of defining Area Served, the Application is incorporated herein by reference consistent with conditions contained in the DECISION section of this docket.

4. **Physical features.**

a. **Design criteria.** Horsham Air Guard Station's public water supply currently serves an estimated population of 1,500 people with an average and maximum water demand of 0.057 million gallons per day (mgd) and 0.208 mgd, respectively. The docket holder projects an average and maximum water demand of 0.0766 mgd and 0.280 mgd, respectively, by the year 2022. Throughout the year, special missions may be conducted at Horsham Air Guard Station, which will lead to temporary increases in water use for the duration of the mission.

b. **Facilities.** The docket holder's existing wells have the following characteristics:

WELL NO.	DEPTH	CASED DEPTH/ CASING DIAMETER	PUMP CAPACITY	YEAR DRILLED
Well No. 1	396'	26'/10"	200 gpm	1942
Well No. 2	352'	18'/10"	200 gpm	1942

All wells and all water service connections are metered.

Well water is disinfected by chlorination prior to entering the distribution system.

The wells and the project facility are located above the 100-year flood elevation, as designated by the FEMA Flood Zone Designations.

The water system is not interconnected with any other distribution system.

c. **Other.** Wastewater is conveyed to the Horsham Township Sewer Authority sewage treatment facility which received approval most recently under Section 3.8 of the *Compact* by DRBC Docket No. D-1988-017 CP on December 14, 1998. Horsham Water and Sewer Authority submitted a renewal application to the Commission on October 21, 2011. The PADEP issued its most recent NPDES Permit No. PA0051985 on October 30, 2000 for this treatment facility. Horsham Water and Sewer Authority has submitted a renewal application to the PADEP and are waiting on approval. The treatment facility has adequate capacity to receive wastewater from the Horsham Air Guard Station.

d. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** – The project was not formerly included in the Comprehensive Plan.

B. **FINDINGS**

The Horsham Air Guard Station is located within the Southeastern Pennsylvania Ground Water Protected Area delineated by the DRBC pursuant to *Compact* Section 10.2. The project is designed to conform to the requirements of the *Water Code*, *Water Quality Regulations* and *Ground Water Protected Area Regulations (GWPAR)* of the DRBC.

Although Wells Nos. 1 and 2 have not been pump tested, there have been no reported complaints of well interference in over 70 years of the docket holder's historical well use. No adverse impact is anticipated due to continued operation of this project. If the docket holder requires any future withdrawal increases, a pump test will be required consistent with the DRBC application and *GWPAR*.

Review and analysis of the application pursuant to Section 6.D. of the *GWPAR* result in the following:

1. The withdrawal is consistent with the Commission's Comprehensive Plan and the policies and purposes of these regulations.
2. Opportunities to satisfy water requirements on a timely basis from existing available supplies and facilities have been explored and found infeasible.
3. The withdrawal, in conjunction with other withdrawals in the applicable groundwater basin, should not exceed withdrawal limits of the groundwater basin, aquifer or aquifer system.
4. The withdrawal should not significantly impair or reduce the flow of perennial streams in the area.
5. Existing ground and surface water withdrawals should not be adversely impacted, or will be otherwise assured of adequate supplies in accordance with the requirements of Section 10 of the *GWPAR*.
6. The withdrawal should not cause substantial, permanent adverse impact to the overlying environment.
7. The docket holder adopted and will implement conservation and management programs as required by Section 7 of the *GWPAR*.

The project does not conflict with the Comprehensive Plan, and is designed to prevent substantial adverse impact to the water resources related environment, while sustaining the current and future water uses and development of the water resources of the Basin.

The air station's Wells Nos. 1 and 2 are located in the Park Creek subbasin, where the total net annual groundwater withdrawal of 538.95 million gallons per year (mgy) is less than the withdrawal limit set in Section 6.I of the *GWPAR* of 778 mgy. The total annual groundwater allocation from these wells is limited to 38.4 mgy, a fraction of which will be returned to groundwater. However, even if no water from this project were returned to groundwater, the total net annual groundwater withdrawal from this subbasin would remain below the withdrawal limits set in Section 6.I of the *GWPAR*. Therefore, the withdrawals from Well Nos. 1 and 2, in conjunction with other withdrawals in the subbasin, are in accordance with the requirements of Section 6.I of the *GWPAR*.

The DRBC estimates that the project withdrawals, used for the purpose of public water supply, result in a consumptive use of 10 percent of the total water use. The DRBC definition of consumptive use is defined in Article 5.5.1.D of the *Administrative Manual – Part III – Basin Regulations – Water Supply Charges*.

C. DECISION

I. Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-2010-020 CP-1 below:

a. The project and the appurtenant facilities described in the Section entitled “Physical features” above shall be added to the Comprehensive Plan.

II. The project as described in the Section A “Physical features” is approved pursuant to Section 3.8 of the *Compact* and is granted this withdrawal permit pursuant to Section 10.3 of the *Compact* and *GWPAR*, subject to the following conditions:

a. Docket approval is subject to all conditions, requirements, and limitations imposed by the PADEP, and such conditions, requirements, and limitations are incorporated herein, unless they are less stringent than the Commission's. Within 60 days (February 5, 2013), the docket holder shall provide written confirmation to the Commission that it has registered and reported with PADEP all surface and groundwater sources described in this docket in accordance with the Pennsylvania Regulations (Title 25 - Environmental Protection, [25 PA. CODE CH. 110], Water Resources Planning).

b. The wells and operational records shall be available at all times for inspection by the DRBC.

c. The wells shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the *Water Code* and *Water Quality Regulations* of the DRBC.

d. During any month period, the withdrawal from the following wells shall not exceed:

WELL NO.	INSTANTANEOUS ALLOCATION (GPM)	MONTHLY ALLOCATION (MILLION GALLONS)
Well No. 1	200	3.2
Well No. 2	200	3.2

In addition, the total withdrawal from all wells shall not exceed 3.2 mgm and the total annual withdrawal shall not exceed 38.4 mgy.

e. The wells shall be equipped with readily accessible capped port and drop pipes so that water levels may be measured under all conditions.

f. The project withdrawals shall be metered with an automatic continuous recording device that measures to within 5 percent of actual flow. An exception to the 5 percent performance standard, but no greater than 10 percent, may be granted if maintenance of the 5 percent performance is not technically feasible or economically practicable. A record of daily withdrawals shall be maintained, and monthly totals shall be reported annually by March 31, to the Bureau of Watershed Management, PADEP. Withdrawal records shall be available at any time to the Commission if requested by the Executive Director.

g. Each new water service connection shall include a water meter in accordance with the DRBC's Resolution No. 87-7 (Revised).

h. In accordance with DRBC Resolutions No. 87-6 (Revised) and No. 2009-1, the docket holder shall continue to implement to the satisfaction of the Bureau of Watershed Management and the PADEP, the systematic program to monitor and control leakage within the water supply system. The program shall at a minimum include: periodic surveys to monitor leakage, enumerate non-revenue water and determine the current status of system infrastructure; recommendations to monitor and control leakage; and a schedule for the implementation of such recommendations. The docket holder shall proceed expeditiously to correct leakages and unnecessary usage identified by the program.

i. The docket holder shall continue to implement its Water Conservation Plan as approved by PADEP, and shall report to the PADEP on the actions taken pursuant to this program and the impact of those actions as requested by the PADEP.

j. The docket holder shall incorporate and implement reasonable conservation practices and measures consistent with efficient utilization of water resources.

k. No new water service connections shall be made to the premises connected to sewerage systems which are not in compliance with all applicable effluent limits contained in State permits and the *Water Quality Regulations* of the Commission.

l. Nothing herein shall be construed to exempt the docket holder from obtaining all necessary permits and/or approvals from other State, Federal or local government agencies having jurisdiction over this project.

m. The docket holder is permitted to provide the water approved in this docket to the areas included in Section A.3. Area Served of this permit. Any expansion beyond those included in Section A.3. Area Served is subject to DRBC review and approval in accordance with Section 3.8 of the *Compact* and the *GWPAR*.

n. Unless an extension is requested and approved by the Commission in advance, in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Commission's Project Review Fee schedule (Resolution No. 2009-2), the docket holder is responsible for timely submittal of a docket renewal application on the appropriate DRBC application form at least 12 months in advance of the docket expiration date set forth below. The docket holder will be subject to late charges in the event of untimely submittal of its renewal application, whether or not DRBC issues a reminder notice in advance of the deadline or the docket holder receives such notice. In the event that a timely and complete application for renewal has been submitted and the DRBC is unable, through no fault of the docket holder, to reissue the docket before the expiration date below (or the later date established by an extension that has been timely requested and approved), the terms and conditions of the current docket will remain fully effective and enforceable against the docket holder pending the grant or denial of the application for docket approval.

o. The issuance of this docket approval shall not create any private or proprietary rights in the water of the Basin, and the Commission reserves the rights to amend, alter or rescind any actions taken hereunder in order to insure the proper control, use and management of the water resources of the Basin.

p. If any information demonstrates that the operation of this project significantly affects or interferes with any domestic or other existing uses of ground or surface water, or if the docket holder receives a complaint by any existing ground or surface water users within the zone of influence of the withdrawal, the docket holder shall immediately notify the Executive Director of any complaints by any ground or surface users within the zone of influence of the withdrawal, and unless excused by the Executive Director, shall investigate such complaints. The docket holder should direct phone call notifications of potential well or surface water interference or complaints of interference to the DRBC Project Review Section at 609-883-9500, extension 216. Oral notification must always be followed up in writing directed to the Executive Director. The docket holder shall provide the potentially impacted user(s) of wells or surface water supplies with copies of the correspondence submitted to the Commission. Any ground or surface water user which is substantially adversely affected, rendered dry or otherwise diminished as a result of the docket holder's project withdrawal, shall be repaired, replaced or otherwise mitigated at the expense of the docket holder in accordance with Section's 2., 6.D., 10.B., and 13.A. of the *GWPAR*. A report of investigation and/or mitigation plan prepared by a

hydrologist shall be submitted to the Executive Director as soon as practicable. The Executive Director shall make the final determination regarding the validity of such complaints, the scope or sufficiency of such investigations, and the extent of appropriate mitigation measures, if required.

q. The Executive Director may modify or suspend this approval or any condition thereof, or require mitigating measures pending additional review, if in the Executive Director's judgment such modification or suspension is required to protect the water resources of the Basin.

r. For the duration of any drought emergency declared by either Pennsylvania or the Commission, water service or use by the docket holder pursuant to this approval shall be subject to the prohibition of those non-essential uses specified by the Governor of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council, PADEP, or the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator, to the extent that they may be applicable, and to any other emergency resolutions or orders adopted hereafter by the Commission.

s. Any person who objects to a docket decision by the Commission may request a hearing in accordance with Article 6 of the *Rules of Practice and Procedure*. In accordance with Section 15.1(p) of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*, cases and controversies arising under the *Compact* are reviewable in the United States district courts.

BY THE COMMISSION

APPROVAL DATE: December 5, 2012

EXPIRATION DATE: December 5, 2022